

Monday 12 October 2009

NEW DIRECTOR FOR EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

The Board of The Edinburgh International Book Festival today announced the appointment of Nick Barley as the new Book Festival Director, replacing Catherine Lockerbie who left after a nine-year tenure at the end of August. Barley, who most recently was Executive Director at The Lighthouse in Glasgow, will take up his role with immediate effect.

Barley ran his own publishing company, August Publications, before becoming Editor of The List in 2003. He held this post until 2006 when he took over as Director of The Lighthouse, Scotland's National Centre for Architecture and Design where he worked with a range of Scottish authors commissioning writing from Anne Donovan, Laura Marney, Pat Kane, Zoe Strachan, Sheila Puri, Alan Bissett and Louise Welsh. Whilst at The List, Barley introduced and developed the List Edinburgh Festival Guide and Map, the quarterly contemporary art magazine. He also set up The List Festival Writing Awards in association with the Writer's Guild.

Susan Rice, Chairman of the Edinburgh International Book Festival said "I am absolutely delighted to announce Nick Barley's appointment. The Book Festival is pre-eminent among literary festivals around the world. The size and quality of the events, the number of visitors and authors and the extent of public praise all expanded remarkably under Catherine Lockerbie's leadership. She leaves a strong legacy. Nick Barley is now just the person to move us forward to the next level altogether – with his literary connections, his experience running arts organisations, his design background and above all his vision for the Book Festival in the future. With one of the strongest and most experienced teams in any arts festival, and with Nick at the helm, we look ahead with confidence and enthusiasm."

Nick Barley said "The Edinburgh International Book Festival is a forum for sharing and celebrating ideas. Whether it's fiction or non-fiction, literary or genre writing, political or cultural criticism, writing is the means by which we explore and reflect on the world we live in. It is a great honour to be asked to lead the Book Festival into a new era and I am very much looking forward to working with the Festival team to shape the 2010 programme and inviting the authors whose ideas are shaping the way we look at the world to discuss these concepts with our Edinburgh audiences. "

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT FRANCES SUTTON, PRESS MANAGER:

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www.edbookfest.co.uk

The 2010 Edinburgh International Book Festival will take place from Saturday 14th to Monday 30th August 2010. Full details of the programme will be released in June 2010, and audio recordings of a range of events in the 2009 programme can be found on www.edbookfest.co.uk.

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Nick is available for interview, please contact

Frances Sutton, Press Manager

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to arrange an appointment and for press photographs.

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